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GUBERNATORIAL
ELECTION

Business
Leaders
Drawn
To Race

Neophytes
Trying Their
Hands At Politics

By DANIELA ALTIMARI
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Dita Bhargava was trained as an electrical engineer but made her mark as a Wall Street trader. Bob Stefanowski occupied a high perch at both UBS Investment Bank and GE. David Stemmerman ran a \$1.6 billion hedge fund.

Now all three political newcomers have turned their focus to the state's highest office, even though they have never held — or even run for — an elective post in the past. At a time when a rich outsider occupies the White House, well-heeled amateurs are jumping in to key 2018 races, including Connecticut's wide-open gubernatorial contest.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there's a Trump effect of people who used to be donors now wanting to be candidates," said Sarah Bryner, research director at the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks campaign fundraising and spending and its effect on elections and policies. As the cost

ELECTION, A5

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Black
Friday
Still
A Draw

Some Still Prefer
'Personal Touch'

By STEPHEN SINGER
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WEST HARTFORD — Kevin Zeller, owner of Max Zeller Furs in West Hartford, had a strong position in the race to lure customers on Black Friday.

"Black is probably the No. 1 color," Zeller said. "It goes with everything."

He pushed that advantage hard, slashing prices in half on all black fur merchandise. A shearling stroller fur that extends below the knee, for example, or a cashmere cape with fox trim, each of which for \$1,295 any other day, sold for \$650 on Friday.

And while the image of Black Friday is often a scene of mobs of shoppers stampeding for the best buy, West Hartford was, in comparison, sedate. But with conditions perfect for shopping — a

SHOPPING, A5



BRAD HARRIGAN | BHARRIGAN@COURANT.COM

A FARMINGTON Avenue sidewalk is sprinkled with pedestrians in West Hartford Friday afternoon.

HELPLESS VICTIMS

► At least a dozen attackers used guns, grenades at Sufi mosque, then escaped.

► Mosque is in northern Sinai Peninsula, focus of fighting between military, militants.

► Sufis, part of mystic movement within Islam, considered heretics by Islamic State



DPA | TNS

Mosque Massacre



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

EGYPTIANS carry wounded people on stretchers following a gun and bomb attack on the al-Rawdah mosque, pictured above, in the Sinai Peninsula on Friday. Attackers killed at least 235 worshippers in the packed mosque, blocking escape routes and blasting people as they ran.

In Egypt, Militants Blast
Worshippers, Kill At Least 235

By ASHRAF SWEILAM
and BRIAN ROHAN
Associated Press

EL-ARISH, Egypt — In the deadliest attack by Islamic extremists in Egypt, militants assaulted a crowded mosque Friday during prayers, blasting helpless worshippers with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades and blocking their escape routes. At least 235 people were killed before the assailants got away.

The attack in the troubled northern part of the Sinai Peninsula targeted a mosque frequented by Sufis, members of a mystic movement within Islam. Islamic militants, including the local affiliate of the Islamic State group, consider Sufis heretics because of their less literal interpretations of the faith.

The startling bloodshed in the town of Bir al-Abd also wounded at least 109, according to the state news agency. It offered the latest sign that, despite more than three years of fighting in Sinai, the Egyptian government has failed to deter an IS-led insurgency.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi condemned the attack as "criminal" and "cowardly" and vowed that it "will not go unpunished" and that Egypt would persevere with its war on terrorism. But he did not specify what new steps might be taken.

U.S. President Donald Trump denounced a "horrible and cowardly terrorist attack on innocent and defenseless worshippers."

"The world cannot tolerate terror-

EGYPT, A4

Despite Losses,
Islamic State
Still Deadly

By GREG JAFFE and JOBY WARRICK
Washington Post

The brazen attack on worshippers at an Egyptian mosque early Friday showed the ability of the Islamic State's regional affiliates to inflict death and exact revenge for the loss of the group's main enclaves in Iraq and Syria.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attack on the Rawda mosque in Egypt's sparsely populated Sinai Peninsula, but there were many reasons to suspect the Islamic State was responsible.

The Egyptian affiliate, which consists of up to 1,000 members, in recent months has stepped up attacks on Egyptian soldiers and police in the region and laid siege to Coptic Christian

ISLAMIC STATE, A4

Inmate's Lawsuit

A federal lawsuit filed years ago by former death row inmate Daniel Webb, who claims the decision by prison officials to take down photos of women on his cell was cruel and unusual punishment, will get a hearing in February.

Connecticut, Page B1

Generous Children

Every now and then, says Teresa M. Pelham, we witness our kids doing something that shows we may have done something right as parents. When she asked her almost 16-year-old what he'd like for Christmas, he said he wanted her to make a donation to somebody who needs it.

Living, Page B10

UConn-Cincy
A Big Game

Jeff Jacobs: The UConn football team's matchup today against Cincinnati is the most important game of the 2017 season.

Sports, Page C1

Amazon Strike

Workers at a Amazon distribution centers in Germany and one in Italy walked off the job Friday, demanding better wages.

Business, Page A6

Packwood Problem

Before Al Franken and Roy Moore, there was Sen. Bob Packwood — a serial sexual harasser, though he was re-elected anyway.

World & Nation, Page A8

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